

§ 70.42

(4) The contribution to public understanding of government operations and activities will be significant; and

(5) The public's interest in disclosure exceeds the requester's commercial interest in disclosure.

(b) *De minimis costs.* Where the cost of collecting a fee to be assessed to a requester exceeds the amount of the fee which would otherwise be assessed, no fee need be charged. Under normal circumstances, fees which do not exceed \$5.00 need not be collected.

(c) *Reformulating requests.* When the estimated reproduction costs are likely to exceed \$25.00, the requester may be notified of the estimated amount of fees, unless the requester has indicated in advance its willingness to pay fees as high as those anticipated. Such notice may invite the requester to reformulate the request to satisfy his or her needs at a lower cost.

§ 70.42 Ancillary considerations.

(a) *Costs assessed when no records are disclosed.* The costs of searching for and, in the case of a commercial use request, reviewing records may be assessed even where ultimately no documents are disclosed or located.

(b) *Aggregating requests.* A requester may not file multiple requests, each seeking portions of a document or documents in order to avoid the payment of fees. When there is reason to believe that a requester or a group of requesters acting in concert, is attempting to break a request down into a series of requests for the purpose of evading the assessment of fees, any such requests may be aggregated and the requesters charged as if there were only a single request.

(c) *Advance payments.* An advance payment before work is commenced or continued on a request, may not be required unless:

(1) It is estimated or determined that the allowable charge that a requester may be required to pay are likely to exceed \$250. When a determination is made that the allowable charges are likely to exceed \$250, the requester shall be notified of the likely cost and be required to provide satisfactory assurance of full payment where the requester has a history of prompt payment of FOIA fees, or be required to

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tender advance payment of at least 50% of the full estimated charges in the case of requesters with no history of payment; or

(2) A requester has previously failed to pay a fee charged in a timely fashion (i.e., within 30 days of the date of the billing) in which case the requester may be required:

(i) To pay the full amount owed plus any applicable interest as provided in § 70.41(e), when an outstanding balance is due and owing, and

(ii) To make an advance payment of the full amount of the estimated fee before the component begins to process a new request.

(3) In any case, the payment of outstanding fees may be required before responsive materials are actually disclosed to a requester.

(d) *Time limits to respond extended when advance payments requested.* When an advance payment of fees in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section has been requested the administrative time limits prescribed in subsection (a)(6) of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(6), will only begin to run after such advance payment has been received by the agency.

(e) *Interest charges.* Interest charges on an unpaid bill may be assessed starting on the 31st day following the day on which the billing was sent. Interest shall be at the rate prescribed in section 3717 of title 31 U.S.C. and shall accrue from the date of the billing.

(f) *Authentication of copies—(1) Fees.* The Freedom of Information Act does not require certification or attestation under seal of copies of records furnished in accordance with its provisions. Pursuant to provisions of the general user-charger statute, 31 U.S.C. 9701 and subchapter II of title 29 U.S.C., the following charges may be made where such services are requested:

(i) For certification of true copies, each \$1.

(ii) For attestation under the seal of the Department, each \$3.

(2) *Authority and form for attestation under seal.* Authority is hereby given to any officer or officers of the Department of Labor designated as authentication officer or officers of the Department to sign and issue attestations

under the seal of the Department of Labor.

(g) *Transcripts.* All transcripts shall be made available in accordance with the terms set forth in § 70.40.

Subpart D—Public Records

§ 70.53 Office of Labor-Management Standards.

(a) The following documents in the custody of the Office of Labor-Management Standards are public information available for inspection and/or purchase of copies in accordance with paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section.

(1) Data and information contained in any report or other document filed pursuant to sections 201, 202, 203, 211, and 301 of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 (73 Stat. 524–28, 530, 79 Stat. 888, 29 U.S.C. 431–433, 441, 461).

(2) Data and information contained in any report or other document filed pursuant to the reporting requirements of part 458 of this title, which are the regulations implementing the standards of conduct provisions of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, 5 U.S.C. 7120, and the Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 U.S.C. 4117. The reporting requirements are found in 29 CFR 458.3.

(b) The above documents are available from: U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Labor-Management Standards, Public Documents Room, N-5616, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210. Documents are also available from the OLMS area or district office in whose geographic jurisdiction the reporting organization or individual is located. The addresses of these offices are listed in appendix A of this part.

(c) Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 435(c) which provides that the Secretary shall by regulation provide for the furnishing of copies of the above documents, upon payment of a charge based upon the cost of the service, these documents are available at a cost of .15 per page of record copies furnished. Authentication of copies is available in accordance with the fee schedule established in section 70.42(f). In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(4)(A)(vi), the provisions for fees, fee waivers and fee reductions

in subpart C do not supersede the above charges for these documents.

(d) Upon request of the Governor of a State for copies of any reports or documents filed pursuant to sections 201, 202, 203, or 211 of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 (73 Stat. 524–528, 79 Stat. 888; 29 U.S.C. 431–441), or for information contained therein, which have been filed by any person whose principal place of business or headquarters is in such State, the Office of Labor-Management Standards shall:

(1) Make available without payment of a charge to the State agency designated by law or by such Governor, such requested copies of information and data, or

(2) Require the person who filed such reports and documents to furnish such copies or information and data directly to the State agency thus designated.

§ 70.54 Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

The following documents are in the custody of the Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration at the address indicated below, and the right of inspection and copying provided in this part may be exercised at such offices: Copies of summary plan descriptions, and annual reports, statements and other documents filed pursuant to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, title I, part I, except that information described in sections 105(a) and 105(c) with respect to a participant may be disclosed only to the extent that information respecting that participant's benefits under title II of the Social Security Act may be disclosed under such Act.

Address: U.S. Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, Public Documents Room N-5507, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210.

APPENDIX A TO PART 70—DISCLOSURE OFFICERS

(a) Offices in Washington, DC, are maintained by the following agencies of the Department of Labor. Field offices are maintained by some of these, as listed in the United States Government Manual (see § 70.5(b)).

- (1) Office of the Secretary of Labor
- (2) Office of the Solicitor of Labor